

Q - Critically review the Gender and Development Approaches on:-

- i) Women in Development (WID)
- ii) Women and Development (WAD)
- iii) Gender and Development (GAD)

1) Introduction:-

The field of gender and development has been fertile for a fundamental shift in the perspectives of and approaches to women in development discourse and policy. Eva Rathgeber identifies three distinct schools of thoughts on gender and development, namely, Women in Development (WID), Women and Development (WAD) and Gender and Development (GAD) as pointed out by Jane L. Pappart in her book *Theoretical perspectives on Gender and Development*. These approaches focus on how gender inequality influences development processes and outcomes, and move beyond the idea of women as a separate and

marginalized group.

i) Women in Development (WID)

It is associated with wide range of activities concerning women in the development domain, with which donor agencies, governments and NGOs have become involved in.

a) Background:-

The term Women in Development was coined in the early 1970s by a Washington-based network of female development professionals. They began to tackle down the challenges of theories of development.

b) Theoretical Base:-

In addition to WID agenda, there was the simultaneous effort by liberal feminists to get equal right, employment, equity and citizenship. The liberal feminist approach has been important globally and

was critical in determining language of political strategy used by WID advocates.

c) Focus:-

WID approach helped to ensure integration of women into workforce and increase their level of productivity in order to improve their lives.

d) Features:-

Gender is a basic factor in division of labor. Women labor at home and on the farm generally goes un-reported. Women in development highlighted the negative impact of colonialism and the penetration of capitalism in domestic lives of women.

e) Criticism:-

WID focused on integration and advocacy for greater participation. It didn't question why women's position was often declining and what were the sources and nature of women's

subordination and oppression. It tends to focus only on women, often neglecting the broader and social and structural causes of gender inequality.

ii) Women and Development (WAD)

Women and Development (WAD) approach is a significant framework in the field of gender and development.

a) Origin :-

Women and development as a stance that emerged from a critique of the modernization theory and WID approach, in the second half of 1970s. Its origin can be traced to the First World Conference on Women in Mexico city.

b) Theoretical base :-

Its theoretical basis draws upon the dependency theory. WAD arose out of a shift in thinking about women's role in development. It explores women's issues

from a neo-Marxist and dependency theory perspective.

c) Focus:-

WAD approach focuses on addressing the structural inequalities that women face within the development process by examining the gendered division of labor, power relations and access to resources. It focuses on relationship between women and development.

d) Features:-

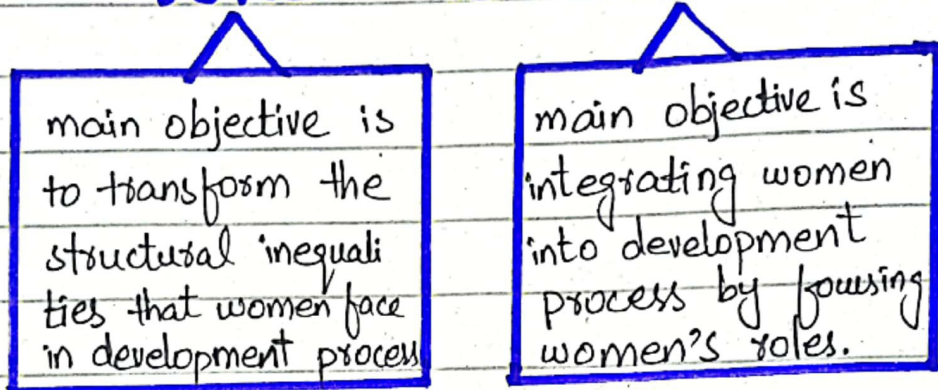
It recognizes that the Third World men also have been adversely affected by the structure of inequalities and the exploitations within international system and discourages a strict analytical focus on the problems of women independent of those of men.

e) Criticism:-

It fails to analyze the relationship between patriarchy, differing modes of

production and women's subordination and oppression. There is little analytical attention to the social relations of gender within classes.

WAD vs WID



iii) Gender and Development (GAD) :-

The concern over the reproductive and domestic problems of women led to a consensus to reform WID and thus GAD was developed.

a) Origin :-

The Gender and development approach originated in 1980's by socialist feminism. It served as a comprehensive

overview of social, economic and the political realities of development.

b) Theoretical base:-

It was influenced by socialist feminist thinking. GAD challenged the WID focus on the women as an important 'target group' and 'untapped resources for development. It marked a shift also in thinking about the need to understand how women and men are socially constructed.

c) Focus:-

It offers a holistic perspective looking at all aspects of women's lives. It questions the basis of assigning specific gender roles to different sexes. It was grounded in argument that analysis focusing on women alone, without social and institutional rules could not capture the nature of subordination.

d) Features:-

GAD rejects the public or private dichotomy. It gives special attention to oppression of women in the family by entering "private sphere". It emphasizes the state's duty to provide social services in promoting women's emancipation.

e) Criticism:-

It criticized the social differences between men and women but failed to integrate their similarities and bonds they share. It did not deeply analyze social relations and how they could be changed to favour women instead of destroying or erasing them altogether.

Conclusion:-

Each of these approaches provides different (approaches) perspectives on how gender impacts development highlights importance of addressing both immediate inequalities and structural, long-term change to achieve gender equality.